

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1 and 6, and CANCEL claim 7 in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~resin-made~~ ball retainer for a rolling bearing, which comprises:

a ring-shaped or arcuate resin-made retainer body having inner and outer peripheral surfaces opposite to each other, said inner and outer peripheral surfaces defining a first radial thickness; and

a plurality of pockets defined in the retainer body so as to open at the inner and outer peripheral surfaces of the retainer body and spaced from each other in a direction circumferentially thereof for rollingly retaining corresponding balls therein;

wherein radial sides of an inner surface of each of the pockets that are opposite to each other in a radial direction of the ball retainer are defined as spherical ball bearing surfaces to which each ball contacts;

wherein intermediate portions of the inner surface of each pocket with respect to the radial direction are defined as circumferential non-contact surface areas that the corresponding ball is prevented from contacting;

wherein substantially all edges of the ball bearing surfaces of the inner surface of each pocket, which contact the ball, are chamfered edges; and

wherein the radial sides ~~portion of the retainer body adjacent each pocket is~~are formed ~~as~~in a thick walled portion ~~of having~~ a radial thickness greater than the first radial thickness of the retainer body ~~not adjacent each pocket~~.

2. (Original) The resin-made ball retainer for the rolling bearing as claimed in Claim 1, wherein portions of the inner surface of each pocket, which lie in a direction intersecting the direction of rotation of the ball retainer, are formed with intersecting oil reservoir grooves each being in the form of a generally elongated recess of a curved surface and extending in a direction radially of the ball retainer.

3. (Original) The resin-made ball retainer for the rolling bearing as claimed in Claim 1, wherein each of the pockets has an opening defined so as to open at one end of the ball retainer with respect to an axial direction thereof and wherein a bottom of the inner surface of each pocket opposite to such opening is formed with a bottom oil reservoir groove of a generally concaved shape.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The resin-made ball retainer for the rolling bearing as claimed in Claim 1, wherein respective portions of one axial end of the retainer body, where the corresponding pockets are defined, are each provided with a pair of projections for embracing the corresponding ball and wherein an inner surface of each of those projections defines a part of the inner surface of the respective pocket.

6. (Currently Amended) A ~~resin-made~~ ball retainer for a rolling bearing, comprising:
a ring-shaped or arcuate resin-made retainer body having inner and outer peripheral surfaces opposite to each other, said inner and outer peripheral surfaces defining a first radial thickness; and

a plurality of pockets defined in the retainer body to open at the inner and outer peripheral surfaces of the retainer body, the pockets being spaced from each other in a circumferential direction of the retainer, rollingly retaining corresponding balls therein;

each pocket comprising

opposing fore and aft portions with respect to the circumferential direction, and

a lubricant reservoir groove disposed between the fore and aft portions and axially opposite an axial opening of the pocket;

each of the fore and aft portions comprising

a pair of ball bearing surfaces disposed at inner and outer radial edges of an internal surface of the pocket,

a non-contact surface area disposed between the ball bearing surfaces, and offset from the ball bearing surfaces, such that the corresponding ball is prevented from contacting the non-contact surface area, and

a radially disposed intersecting lubricant reservoir groove, intersecting the ball bearing surfaces and the non-contact surface area,

wherein substantially all edges of the ball bearing surfaces are chamfered, and

wherein the fore and aft portions of the retainer body adjacent each pocket ~~is~~are formed as a thick walled portion ~~of~~having a radial thickness greater than the first radial thickness of the retainer body ~~not adjacent each pocket.~~

7. (Cancelled)